

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEC 9 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Satellite Interception

References:

a. Memo for the Chief of Staff from the Secretary of the Air Force, subject, "Program 437," dated March 20, 1963.

b. Memo for the Deputy Chief of Staff, R&D, from the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, subject, "Program 437," dated March 28, 1963.

c. Top Secret Memorandum for the Chief of Staff, from the Secretary of the Air Force, subject, "Anti-Satellite Programs" (Secret-Special Access), dated July 2, 1963.

Activities concerned with the acquisition of a direct intercept anti-satellite capability have been underway under expedited procedures. I have recently had occasion to review our efforts.

As you know, Program 437, the THOR-Johnston Island anti-satellite capability, was started last March. References a and b established top priority for the program and required immediate reporting of problem areas to the Secretary of the Air Force. In June, the Secretary of Defense directed that Program 437 achieve a short range capability at Johnston Island by June 1964. He also directed that a follow-on capability should be identified. In reference c, highest priority was given to accomplishing the necessary supporting studies for the follow-on. Secretary Zuckert appointed Dr. Flax to personally supervise the effort, which was subsequently named Program 888.

I think it pertinent to point out that the required resources as shown in the recent Program 437 Program Change Proposal submission are extensive, in funds, in facilities, and in manpower. These resource costs are sufficiently

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR. 5200.10

118 03-59095

Ref: msg c SAE
AFRIPN 96730
9 Jan 64
SPECIAL ACCESS REQUIRED
PROGRAM 437

MAR 13 1964